



## TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT MAY 16, 2016

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

#### **TOWN COMMITTEES**

Currently there are openings on the following: (1) Council on Aging Board, (1) Trust Fund Commission and (1) Conservation Commission. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

#### **BUDGET**

With everyone's help we finalized the FY17 budget. Spending for FY16 in all departments is right in line. Great job!

I also met with the Advisory Board to make two transfers from reserves to start the year end cleanup.

Snow and Ice deficit will be covered when we do the recap at the end of the year.

#### **ENERGY COMMITTEE**

The committee has received authorization to proceed with the replacement of the boiler at the Library as well as the total replacement of lighting at the Library, Town Hall, and Public Safety Building. We are also going to do some additional insulation at the Library.

The committee will be applying for additional grant monies to get assistance in submitting a competitive grant application up to \$250,000 a large part to go towards a HVAC system at the Library.

#### **WATER & SEWER**

I met with Marielle Stone, David Boyer from MA DEP, Charlie Packard, Val Daigle from W&S commissioners, DPW superintendent Steve Nims, Fire Chief Paul Rekos and representative from Weston and Sampson about a complaint issued by DPW Superintendent Dane Arnold from Gardner about notification regarding the fuel spill that occurred at Cushing Academy on February 14, 2016 when approximately 35 gallons drained into the sewer system. It was a very good meeting, faulty information was corrected and accusations dispelled and a commitment from the town to review Standard Operating Procedures in regard to actions taken during a spill that affects the sewer system.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

The Board has accepted MGL Chapter 32b section 21 through 23 regarding the ability to modify Health Plan configuration. I request that at this time the Board vote to continue with the current Plan design which will include a 4.5% increase for FY17. I will continue to work with the Insurance advisory board to look at other cost savings alternatives which will minimize impact on our subscribers.

#### **HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

I ask that the board vote to sign the Hazard Mitigation Plan that was updated by MRPC and accepted by FEMA.

#### **DAMS**

Steve Nims and I met with Peter Valinski from Tighe Bond to begin the engineering phase on Watatic Dam.

**RT 101**

Weston and Sampson is finishing up the engineering for the TIP project on route 101 from Corey Hill to the Gardner Line.

**ROAD GRANT**

As I stated at the town meeting, we will be applying for a road resurfacing grant that will open up on June 1, 2016. This is intended to cover Lake Shore Drive, Ferin Road, Harris, and Cross Road. Total value will be \$1M, and selection will be in the fall with monies available in the spring.

**RETIREMENT**

Effective August 31, 2016 I am retiring as Town Administrator, for the town of Ashburnham. In 2009 I made the decision to change careers and make town government my full time position. I want to thank Ashburnham for seeing my potential and giving me the opportunity to pursue my dream. There are many of you that supported me through my journey and for that I thank you. Ashburnham and its people will always have a spot in my heart.